



# THE Marquee

From the Desk of Vonnie Corsini, Executive Director

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## 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Bike Park gets a face lift!

How awesome to see our community come together to volunteer their time and hard work. Ethan Lomshek from Boy Scout troop 81 and his father Rodger Lomshek of Tailwinds Cyclists, organized a huge cleanup at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Bike Park for Ethan's Eagle Scout project. More than 20 volunteers committed 240 hours of work to clean up the park and make it safer for bike riders. We know what it takes to organize a large group of volunteers and it is no easy undertaking. If you meet one of them say thank you for their hard work.



**The adorning feature of the Colonial Fox grand entry is the 1920 ticket booth. Unfortunately, the booth's ornate crown was damaged beyond repair. After consulting with numerous restoration professionals, we realized the crown needed to be recast and the intricate details re-sculpted. Happily for us, Jessica Heikes had just moved back to Pittsburg after earning an M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. With**

her strong art and sculpting background to draw upon, Jessica started by creating a mold directly from the damaged crown. "It was a very interesting project and one that utilized a lot of my skills. Although, I have to admit, as an artist and a sculptor, I had never imagined that I would be using my skills in this direction," smiled Heikes.

## Why restore the Colonial Fox?

Early on in this wonderfully rewarding project, I learned how important the restoration and rehabilitation of historic theatres have been to downtowns across America. This is not about the building or even arts and entertainment. It is about community building and a sense of place. Downtown theatres are the heart of a community. Restored historic theatres increase the number of visitors downtown and draw new businesses to accommodate them. Just one of many great examples of this renaissance effect on downtowns is the *Granada Theatre* in Emporia Kansas. If you get a chance, visit one of the many successfully restored theatres across Kansas.



Granada Theatre  
Emporia, Kansas

**What people are saying about the Colonial Fox:** *Restoring the Fox Colonial Theatre would restore a cultural gathering place for our community. It would provide a much-needed home for creativity, music, art and culture in downtown. The programming which would be available once renovation is completed will help breathe life into our community and resuscitate Pittsburg's main street culture.* – Roger and Heidi Misasi



**Congratulations to the Community Health Center of SEK** upon receiving a grant to establish a rural residency program. The center was one of only 27 organizations in the country to receive up to \$750,000 over a three-year period to start new rural residency programs while gaining accreditation through the *Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education*. Another example of great organizations doing great community service.

**Did you know?** *In 1926, the Colonial briefly closed for "extensive exterior remodeling and complete redecorating inside." Most significantly, the stage expanded to cover the vaudeville era orchestra pit.*

## QUESTIONS?

Please call us at (620) 235-0622 or e-mail us at [info@colonialfox.org](mailto:info@colonialfox.org)  
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The MARQUEE is provided to individuals and businesses who help advance the cause of philanthropy through the renovation and operation of the Colonial Fox Theatre.